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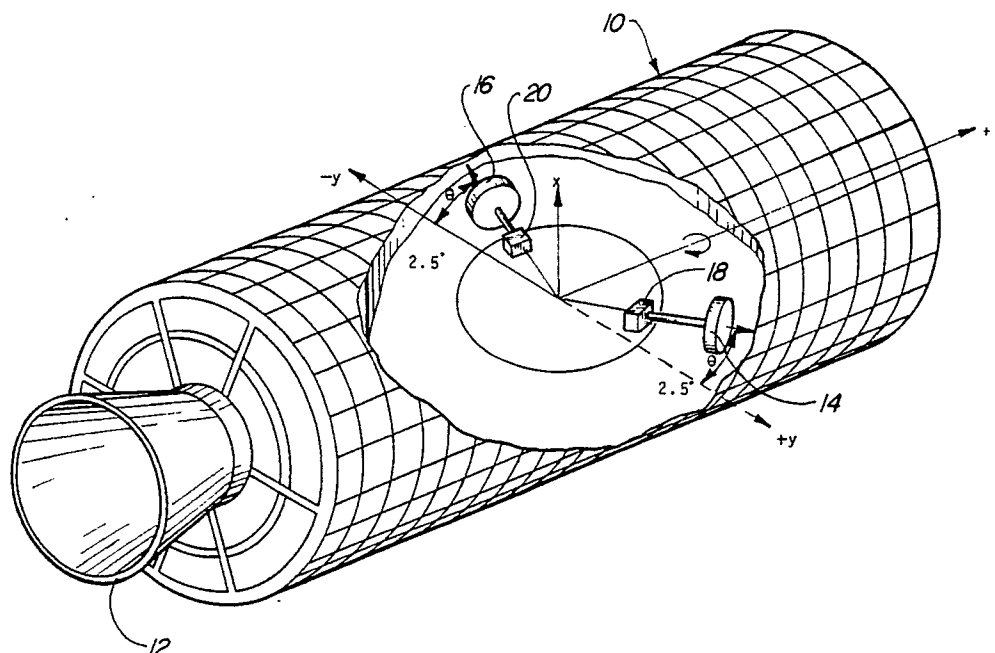
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54 **Spin stabilization via momentum wheels or similar devices.**

57 A spacecraft (10) incorporating momentum sources such as spinning momentum wheels (14, 16) having momentum vectors or components thereof oriented along the desired axis (z) of rotation of the spacecraft (10). The rotation axis (z) of the spacecraft (10) is nominally any one of the three principle momentum of inertia axes of the body.

Proper adjustment of the spin rate of the main body relative to the magnitude of the moment sources angular momentum will insure that the spacecraft (10) will spin about the desired axis (z) in a passively stable way even though the rotational axis is not the principle axis of maximum moment of inertia.



EP 0 372 397 A3



EP 89 12 2118

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int. Cl.5)
X	US-A-4275861 (HUBERT) * column 2, lines 47 - 55 * * column 3, lines 35 - 45 * * column 4, lines 56 - 66 * * column 5, lines 46 - 53 * * column 6, line 60 - column 7, line 7 * * column 10, lines 4 - 65 * * column 11, lines 1 - 16 * * column 13, lines 3 - 49 * * figures * -----	1-10	B64G1/28
A	FR-A-2369612 (MATRA) * page 1, lines 36 - 38 * * page 2, line 24 - page 3, line 1 * * page 5, lines 5 - 12 * * figures * -----	1-10	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int. Cl.5)
			B64G B64C G05D
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 22 AUGUST 1990	Examiner ESTRELA Y CALPE J.
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS			
X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	